

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DACCA 00960 240509Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EA-07
/063 W

-----240515 022117 /13

R 230955Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3640
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 0960

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, BG, VN
SUBJ: VISIT OF VIETNAMESE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: A) ISLAMABAD 1535; B) KATHMANDU 0594

1. VIETNAMESE DEPTUY FOREIGN MINISTER, PHAN HIEN, CON-
CLUDED FEB 22 A THREE-DAY GOODWILL MISSION TO
BANGLADESH. DURING HIS STAY, PHAN MET WITH GENERAL ZIA,
PRESIDENT SAYEM AND SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF
ADVISORS, AND HELD FORMAL DISCUSSIONS IN WHICH THE BDG
SIDE WAS LED BY TABARAK HUSAIN, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY.
2. PHAN AND TABARAK, ACCORDING TO THE DACCA PRESS, DIS-
CUSSED THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE AND EXCHANGED VIEWS ON THE
NEED FOR STRENGTHENED BILATERAL TIES. THEY DISCUSSED ALSO
THE MARCH NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING TO
BE HELD IN DELHI. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY WAS ASSISTED IN
THE TALKS BY ARSHAD-UZ-ZAMAN, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR MIDDLE
EAST/AFRICAN AFFAIRS AND EASTERN EUROPE/COMMUNIST COUNTRIES,
MFA, AND MOHAMMED MOMEN, BANGLADESH AMBASSADOR TO CHINA AND
CONCURRENTLY TO VIETNAM.

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3. DURING HIS VISIT, PHAN LAID A WREATH FEB 21
AT THE SHAHEED MINAR ON THE NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING (SEPTEL)
AND VISITED THE RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE AT JOYDEVPUR, TWENTY
MILES FROM DACCA. PHAN LATER TOLD AZIZUL HUQ, MEMBER OF THE
COUNCIL OF ADVISORS WITH THE AGRICULTURE PORTFOLIO, THAT
THE TWO COUNTRIES MAY EXCHANGE AGRICULTURAL DELEGATIONS IN THE

NEAR FUTURE.

4. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE AIRPORT DEPARTURE LOUNGE, TABARAK HUSAIN SAID THAT THE PRIME MINISTER OF VIETNAM, PHAN VAN DONG, HAD BEEN INVITED TO VISIT BANGLADESH. PHAN HIEN PRAISED BANGLADESH FOR THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED SINCE INDEPENDENCE AND EMPHASIZED THE "BRIGHT PROSPECTS" BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES FOR GREATER TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND FRIENDSHIP. HE WAS ALSO SEEN OFF BY, AMONG OTHERS, THE AMBASSADORS FROM THE USSR, CHINA, INDIA, NEPAL AND AFGHANISTAN.

5. COMMENT: THE VISIT WAS PART OF THE SWING THROUGH SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES BY PHAN HIEN. IT IS SEEN BY THE BANGLADESHIS AS SIMPLY WHAT IT WAS ADVERTISED TO BE, A GOODWILL VISIT BY SOMEONE WHO LIVES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. NOTHING CONCRETE WAS EXPECTED AND, DESPITE MENTION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, NOTHING SUBSTANTIAL IS LIKELY TO BE RECEIVED. THE PRESS COVERAGE WAS NORMAL FOR VISITING FOREIGN DIGNITARIES AND THE CALLS AND FORMAL TALKS ARE ON THE AGENDA FOR VISITORS ROUTINELY. MASTERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, GOODWILL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DACCA00960
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770063-0845
Format: TEL
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770219/aaaaaqgc.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 343761c0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ISLAMABAD 1535, 77 KATHMANDU 594
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3256249
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF VIETNAMESE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER
TAGS: PFOR, BG, VN, (PHAN HIEN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/343761c0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009